

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 USUN N 00659 041921Z

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OIC-02 AF-06 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-09

AID-05 OES-05 HEW-06 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 COME-00

SP-02 L-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNS POP

SUBJ: POPULATION COMMISSION--18TH SESSION; SUMMARY ROUNDUP

1. ON FEBRUARY 28 AFTER MARATHON 8 HOUR MEETING THE POPULATION COMMISSION (POPCOM) COMPLETED A NINE DAY REGULAR SESSION DURING WHICH POPCOM PROPOSED SENSIBLE COURSE FOR FOLLOW-UP ACTION BY UN SYSTEM ON WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE (WPC) AND WORLD POPULATION PLAN OF ACTION (WPPA). ALSO FOR FIRST TIME POPCOM BEGAN TO COPE WITH BUDGET AND PERSONNEL FACTORS IN POPULATION DIVISION WORK PROGRAM. SESSION ATMOSPHERE WAS FRIENDLY, A PROFESSIONAL AND COOPERATIVE, ALTHOUGH LEVEL BOTH IN NUMBER AND IMPORTANCE OF REPRESENTATION MANY DELEGATIONS AND OBSERVERS THIS IMPORTANT MEETING OF COMMISSION UNFORTUNATELY DISSAPOINTEDELY LOW. SESSION OVERALL CAN BE CHARACTERIZED AS USEFUL. US DEL TOOK ACTIVE ROLE AND RESULTS WERE ALMOST ALL IN LINE WITH OUR OBJECTIVES.

2. POPCOM CONCERNED PRINCIPALLY WITH IMPLICATION OF THE WPC FOR POPCOM ITSELF AND FOR THE UN PROGRAM IN THE FIELD OF POPULATION ON WHICH A POPCOM REPORT TO ECOSOC IS REQUESTED BY GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 3344(XXIX) PARAGRAPHS 7 AND 10. IN ADDITION TO VARIOUS STATEMENTS BY ITS 27 MEMBERS POPCOM ALSO HEARD REPRESENTATIVES FROM: 1) A NUMBER OF OBSERVER
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PAGE 02 USUN N 00659 041921Z

GOVERNMENTAL DELEGATIONS INCLUDING PORTUGAL AND ITALY;

2) THE DIRECTOR OF THE UN POPULATION DIVISION AND NUMEROUS MEMBERS DIVISION STAFF; 3) OFFICIALS OF UNITED NATIONS FUND FOR POPULATION ACTIVITIES; 4) UNSYG FOR ESA; 5) REPRESENTATIVES OF SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND OF SEVERAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION INCLUDING INTERNATIONAL PLANNED PARENTHOOD FEDERATION AND INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF POPULATION.

3. REGARDING IMPLICATIONS OF THE WPC FOR ITSELF (SEE PARA 10 OF GA RES 3344), POPCOM AFTER CONSIDERABLE DEBATE DECIDED IT DESIRED TO CONTINUE TO BE AN EXPERT, GOVERNMENTAL, FUNCTIONAL COMMISSION OF ECOSOC ON POPULATION MATTERS. IT ALSO RECOMMENDED TO ECOSOC THAT IT SHOULD EXAMINE BIENNIALY AND REPORT TO ECOSOC THE RESULTS OF THE CONTINUOUS PROCESS OF MONITORING POPULATION TRENDS AND POLICIES RECOMMENDED IN THE WPPA. FURTHERMORE POPCOM BELIEVES THAT IT SHOULD PERIODICALLY CONTRIBUTE ADVICE TO ECOSOC ON REVIEW AND APPRAISAL OF THE PROGRESS BEING MADE ON THE NUMEROUS RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WPPA.

4. IN ADDITION TO RESPONDING TO PARAGRAPHS 7 AND 10 OF GA RES 3344, POPCOM ADDRESSED ITSELF TO PARAGRAPHS 8 AND 9 WHICH REQUEST ECOSOC TO GIVE ATTENTION TO IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WPA AND INVITE ECOSOC TO CONSIDER THE MANNER IN WHICH IT SHOULD CONTINUE TO PROVIDE OVERALL POLICY GUIDANCE WITHIN THE UN SYSTEM ON POPULATION RELATED MATTERS. POPCOM RECOMMENDED THAT THERE BE AN IN-DEPTH VIEW OF POPULATION MATTERS BIENNIALY BY ECOSOC WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE WPPA AND IN ADDITION THAT AT ITS DISCRETION ECOSOC ALSO CONSIDER POPULATION MATTERS AT OTHER SESSIONS.

5. POPCOM EXPRESSED ITS VIEWS AS WELL ON PARAGRAPH 12 OF GA RESOLUTION 3344 WHICH INVITED THE SECRETARY GENERAL TO REPORT TO ECOSOC ON STRENGTHENING THE SECRETARIAT CONSONANT WITH PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES OF THE WPPA. POPCOM EMPHASIZED THAT BECAUSE OF IMPORTANT NEW REQUIREMENTS ARISING FROM WPPA SUCH AS REVIEW AND APPRAISAL AND MONITORING OF POPULATION TRENDS AND POLICIES WOULD ADD CONSIDERABLY TO THE ALREADY HEAVY WORK LOAD OF THE SECRETARIAT

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PAGE 03 USUN N 00659 041921Z

THAT IT NEEDED TO BE STRENGTHENED. POPCOM EXPRESSED CONCERN THERE MIGHT NOT BE SUFFICIENT RESOURCES TO PERMIT BADLY NEEDED SECRETARIAT STRENGTHENING. THESE CRUCIAL AREAS (OR SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE JUSTIFY IT.)

6. REGARDING POPULATION DIVISION WORK PROGRAM (1976--1979) IN THE FIELD OF POPULATION, POPCOM CONSIDERED THE OVERALL NATURE OF THE PROGRAM, ITS BALANCE AMONG COMPONENTS AND

PRIORITIES. POPCOM RECONGIZED

IMPORTANT NEEDS IMPLICIT IN THE WPPA. POPCOM AGREED WITH PROPOSED INCREASED EMPHASIS ON INTERRELATIONSHIP BETWEEN POPULATION AND ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, STRESSING THAT MONITORING POPULATION TRENDS AND POLICIES WAS ESSENTIAL NEW FUNCTION AND EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF THE POPULATION DIVISION AND POPCOM IN REVIEW AND APPRAISAL OF THE WPPA.

7. POPCOM INDICATED AN INCREASING AWARENESS OF BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS AND WAS CRITICAL OF THE SECRETARIAT FOR NOT INITIALLY PROVIDING IT INFORMATION ON FUNDING AND PERSONNEL NEEDS. DURING SESSION, AT POPCOM INSISTENCE, SECRETARIAT PRODUCED USEFUL, ESTIMATES OF MON-MONTHS REQUIRED FOR THE BIENNIAL (1976--1979) PROGRAM AND THIS PROVOKED CONSIDERABLE POPCOM DISCUSSION IN WHICH US. PARTICIPATED AND SOME COMPLAINTS DUE TO DIFFICULTIES IN RELATING ESTIMATES TO THE MANY SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES CONTAINED IN WORK PROGRAM. POPCOM SUGGESTED NEXT BIENNIAL PROGRAM SUBMISSION INCLUDE MORE DETAILED INFORMATION CONCERNING PERSONNEL AND BUDGET REQUIREMENTS FOR SPECIFIC PROJECTS AS WELL AS INFORMATION ON RELATED WORK OF REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMISSIONS AND OF UN FINANCED TRAINING AND RESEARCH CENTERS. AFTER MOST THOROUGH REVIEW IT HAD EVEN CONDUCTED, POPCOM ENDORSED THE WORK PROGRAM AND RECOMMENDED ITS APPROVAL BY ECOSOC, BUT A NUMBER OF DELEGATIONS, INCLUDING THE U.S., EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS ESPECIALLY ON THE ENDORSEMENT OF THE LAST TWO YEARS (1978--1979) OF THE MIDDLE-TERM PROGRAM.

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